

REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-compliant Amendment dated July 20, 2006, Applicant has amended the claims to reflect the changes made to the claims which were first presented on December 27, 2005. Claims 1, 20, 22 and 27 have been amended. Claim 21 has been re-instated as new claim 30. Claims 8-19, 28 and 29 remain withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2-7, 23-25 and 26 remain original claims.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wical, U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action indicated on July 20, 2006 that the amendments to the claims should be based on the previously entered claims (i.e. December 27, 2005). Applicant has presented the claims based on the previously entered claims of December 27, 2005.

Additionally, the Office Action indicated that Applicant is bound to the election of species initially made (i.e. Group I, claims 1-7 and 20-27) on August 19, 2004. Applicant acknowledges the Office Action's position, but respectfully submit the claims, as now amended do not encroach on the non-elected species.

Applicant has inserted phrase (3-4), from claim 18 into independent claims 1 and 20, but claims 1 and 20 are still drawn to the same species of the invention as described in the restriction requirement, "input/output addressing."

Applicant submits that the additional limitation of: “wherein degrees of relatives are displayed in a tree view in the order of relative of closer degree, and an abbreviation symbol is added after the name of a member if a member with the same CIF is already displayed in the tree view,” does not alter the species of the invention.

On the Merits:

Claims 1-7 and 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wical, U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 20, as now amended, both describe an associating information management system such that:

... degrees of relatives are displayed in a tree view in the order of relatives of closer degree, and an abbreviation symbol is added after the name of a member if a member with the same CIF is already displayed in the tree view.

Claims 2-7, 22-27 and 30 depend from claims 1 and 20, respectively, so they also describe such associating information management system.

Applicant respectfully submits that Wical does not teach an associating information management system with the claim feature quoted above.

Applicant also appreciates the comments provided in a telephone discussion by the Examiner-of-record on April 6, 2006. In addition to discussing the reasons for holding the preceding amendment non-compliant (PTO communication of April 11, 2006), the Examiner

Response To Notice Of Non-Compliant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.121
Application No. 10/043,212
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noted that she did not find a teaching in the prior art *of record*¹ of the subject matter recited in claim 18, section (3-4). As is apparent, the subject matter added to the claims via the present amendment includes the subject matter from claim 18 referenced by the Examiner.

In view of the present amendments and discussion, applicant submits that the anticipation rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

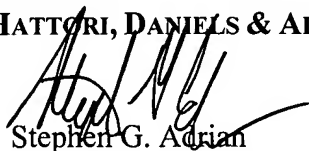
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Applicant acknowledges the PTO's practice of updating the search of prior art in response to amendments.